

From: [Warren Smith](#)
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 - ABORTION ON DEMAND!!
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Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018

Labor's Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 would allow abortion on demand up to 22 weeks for any reason. It is a grave moral wrong to take the life of an innocent child, and for the law to allow this to happen for any reason is abhorrent.

Labor's extreme bill would allow abortion past 22 weeks gestation until birth, even for social reasons, if two doctors approve, although the second doctor does not even have to see the woman, or look at her file – and there is no penalty if the abortion is performed without a second's doctor approval. This is absolutely abhorrent and disgraceful. It is shocking that government is even considering this. Some babies are viable outside the womb at 22 weeks gestation, even though the recognised point of viability in Australia is 23 weeks. According to a YouGov Galaxy poll in August 2018, only 6% of Queenslanders support abortion after 23 weeks, including just 3% of women, with 76% opposed.

This extreme bill is anti-women because it allows sex selection abortion. This is a barbaric facet of gender discrimination, in which unborn female babies are killed for the "crime" of being a girl. According to a YouGov Galaxy poll in August 2018, only 8% of Queenslanders support sex-selective abortion, including 5% of women, with 83% opposed.

Given that only 6% of Queenslanders support late-term abortion and only 8% of Queenslanders support sex-selective abortion, why is the Labor Government proposing such extreme legislation? Only a tiny minority of extremists in the community, including the pro-abortion EMILY's List Labor women MPs, support this outrageous, barbaric, horrendous legislation.

Labor's Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 is unnecessary, as abortion in Queensland is quite accessible, with 14,000 occurring each year. There is no need to decriminalise abortion, as NO woman has ever been convicted for having an abortion. Abortion remaining in the Criminal Code does serve as a necessary deterrent to doctors and as a moral compass for all. It instructs society about the grave consequence of an abortion – a life is destroyed and a woman is harmed.

Labor's Termination of Pregnancy Bill would force doctors with a conscientious objection to refer a woman seeking an abortion to another doctor who will be able to facilitate her request, thus making the referring doctor complicit in the outcome. This is a violation of the right to conscientious objection, and a doctor's obligation to recommend what is the patient's best interests. This is totalitarian.

Labor's Termination of Pregnancy Bill in forcing doctors with conscientious objection to refer for abortion anyhow is likely to force some doctors to exit the profession and may deter new entrants. This deadly Bill could lead to a shortage in doctors and therefore do irreparable damage to the Queensland public hospitals and regional health services. It's nearsighted, and abortion-agenda focused.

In removing doctors' rights to full conscientious objection, and compelling them to refer for abortion, this proposed law probably would force some Christian doctors out of medicine and deter people of faith, or with a strong life ethos, from studying medicine. It should be noted that at the 2016 census 62% of the Queensland population identified as being Christian. It could lead to a shortage of supply of good doctors. The problem would probably be exacerbated in rural and regional areas, some of which already have a problem with a shortage of doctors.

Qld Labor's abortion Bill is so extreme that it is worse than the Pyne Bills [late-term abortion bills] of 2016, which attracted thousands of submissions of which over 85% were opposed to the extreme legislation.

Labor's Termination of Pregnancy Bill would allow abortions to be performed at taxpayer-funded public hospitals and therefore they would be free. The availability of free abortions for any reason at public hospitals would lead to an increase in the abortion rate, with more women being harmed as a result, and put further stress unnecessarily on an already overcrowded public health system.

Labor's Termination of Pregnancy Bill does not include safeguards for women seeking an abortion, such as independent counselling, an informed consent requirement and a cooling-off period. Research already shows that abortion and coercion are correlated. The lack of these safeguards in the proposed bill does not help women to make an informed independent decision at such crucial time. In overlooking this, the bill can only be described as anti-woman.

62% of Queenslanders agree that the unborn at 23 weeks is a person with rights, according to a YouGov Galaxy poll in August 2018. The law must protect the right to life of unborn babies. It is shameful that Labor wants to ignore the fundamental human rights of the most defenceless members of the human family.

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